GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5062
ANSWERED ON:20.12.2002
IRREGULARITIES IN NCCF
RAMJI MANJHI

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of employees in NCCF who are involved inirregularities and corruption in cases where investigations have been completed so far;

(b) the outcome of the investigations;

(c) the number of cases that are pending investigations and since when giving details of irregularities;

(d) the number of cases referred to CBI giving the details thereof;

(e) the reasons for such large number cases of irregularities;

(f) the steps taken to expedite the finalisation of the case pending departmental proceedings;

(g) whether the rates of low value items are higher by 30% than the open market; and

(h) if so, steps taken to purchase all unbranded and so called low value items on tender or from the manufacturers only?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD)

(a) & (b): The NCCF of India Ltd. is a Multi-State Cooperative Society having its own Board of Directors to decide about its business and other administrative matters. The NCCF has informed that investigations in respect of four cases related to irregularities involving nine employees have been completed as on 15.12.2002. Minor penalty was imposed in respect of two cases and warning issued in another case; while in respect of the fourth case, the CBI has not recommended any action against any employee of the NCCF.

(c) : There are five cases pending as on 5.12.2002, the details of which are given in the annexure.

(d) : One case related to irregularities in procurement of wheat from M.P. State Civil Supplies Corporationfor onward supply to World Food Programme was taken up for investigation by the CBI.The CBI has not recommended any action against any employee of NCCF, Bhopal Branch.

(e) : The NCCFis a commercial organization. Its transactions are undertaken through 31 branches/sub-branches located in different parts of the country. Taking into consideration the above facts, the numbers of cases of irregularities do not seem to be large.

(f) : The NCCFis making efforts to expedite the finalisation of the pending cases. It has already introduced preventive vigilance measures, so that the number of irregularities could be further brought down.

(g) & (h): The NCCF has denied the charge that their rates are higher by 30% in respect of the un-branded/low value items. The NCCF has maintained that they procure these items from their registered suppliers at company rates prevailing in the open market, so that their selling rates are competitive. The prices are reviewed periodically by the NCCF depending upon the market conditions.

ANNEXURE

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN PART (c) OF REPLY THE LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 5062 DUE FOR ANSW ON 20/12/2002.

DETAILS OF THE CASES OF IRREGULARITIES COMMITTED BY THE NCCF EMPLOYEES THAT ARE PENDING 5.12.2002

(i) Guwahati Branch - The case relates to various irregularities in various business transactions. The case has been put up to competent authority for decision on 16.12.2002.

(ii) Delhi Branch - Irregularities in supply of cleaning material to AIIMS, New Delhi. The case has been put up to the disciplinary authority for further action.

(iii) Delhi Branch - Irregularities in releasing of security deposit by the Branch Manager, Delhi. The disciplinary authority has advised the concerned official to deposit the amount by 31.12.2002.

(iv) Mumbai Branch - Irregularities in sale of confiscated poppy seeds. Regular enquiry is in final stage.

(v) Kolkata Branch - Irregularities in direct sale of confiscated goods to the Primary Societies. The matter has been referred to CVC on 16.10.2002 for taking their 1st stage advice.